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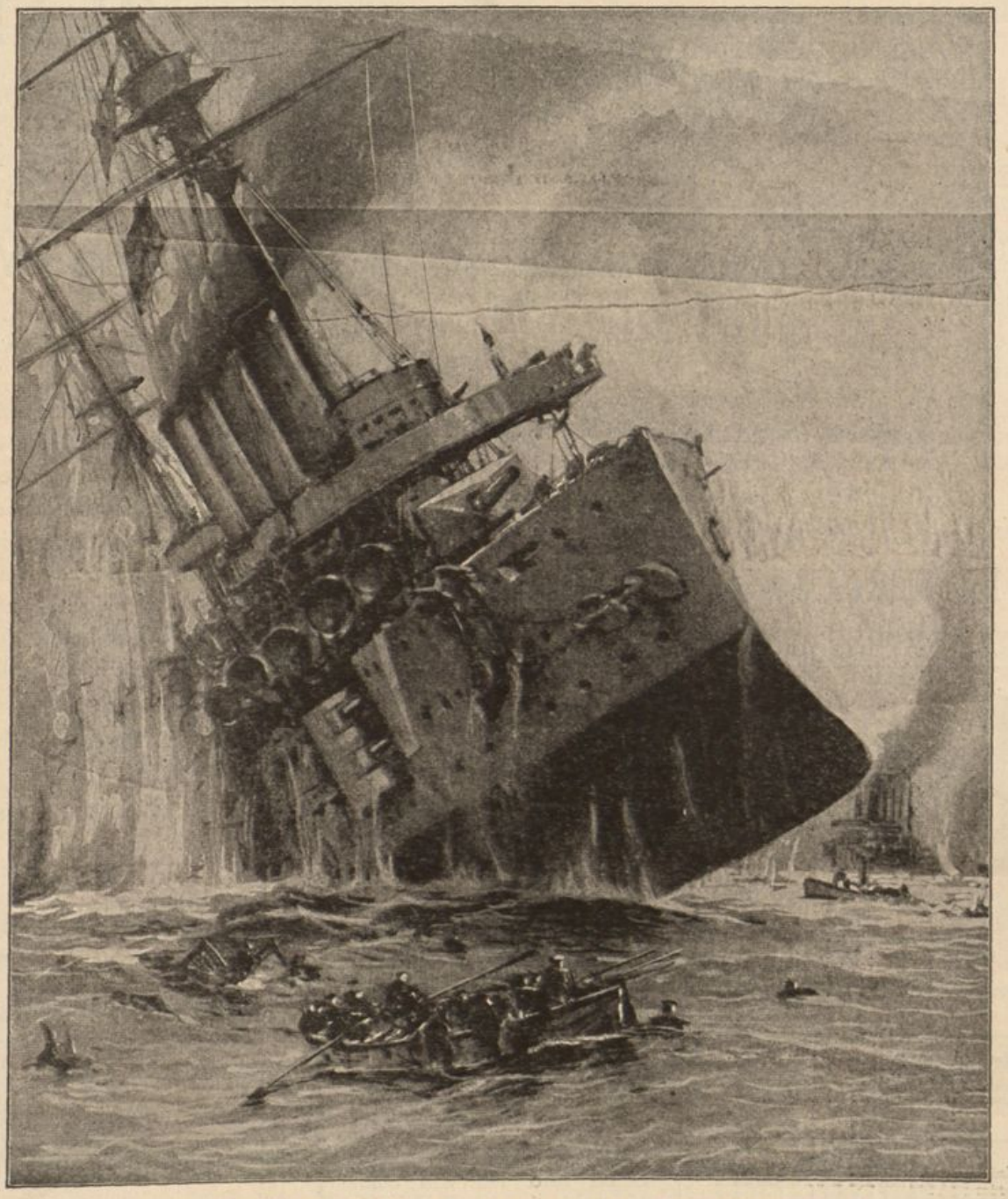

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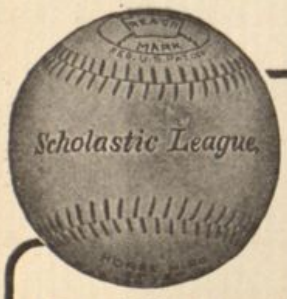

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GERMAN LOVE OF PEACE

By Houston Stewart Chamberlain

"Behold the true warriors; they are not quick to shrink, are not defiant, nor eager for fight; but when they are forced to fight, then have a care, they are in earnest."—Luther.

IN these grave and solemn days there is no room for elaborate rhetoric, but for facts only—nothing but facts. Beside the sacrifice of so many lives for the existence and safety of their country, even the eloquence of a Demosthenes would sound empty.

"Facts," writes Carlyle, "surpass all reasoning; beside them words are a mere stammering and stuttering." But how are we to arrive at facts? Material facts, indeed, force themselves upon us; but how can we arrive at intellectual and moral facts?

The appalling fact of a world at war we have before us, night and day, but where is the fact that forms the inner reason of this war? Who has brought this war about?

Germany's enemies claim that it was she who broke the peace, and that Europe will not be at rest until Germany has been annihilated. Where must we look for the origin of this wild idea? How is it possible to hide the obvious truth, "the fact," from the eyes of the millions? To state something to be a fact means that it is a truth. An untrue fact is a thing of nought, "ens imaginarium," of Kant, "empty form without substance." Just such a phantom, however, sometimes exercises a great power over the imagination of men. The press, that powerful instrument for spreading the truth, becomes, in the hands of a few unscrupulous persons, a tool for the dissemination of false statements which has no parallel. We realize this forcibly in the war news of foreign papers. Despicable, however, as the use of the press for spreading false reports may be, it is almost harmless compared with the attempts to shape the public opinion of whole nations by lies cunningly planned and systematically circulated.

Oscar Wilde once wrote an article on "The Art of Lying"; his countrymen have made great progress in this art since his time!

Far be it from me to pretend that the statesmen of former times have always walked in the paths of strict honesty; but then the crafty were met by the crafty, the cunning were outwitted by the cunning; thus the intrigues of a Richelieu, for example, may be called, in a certain sense, honorable intrigue. In our day, however, it is the unsuspecting masses that are grossly misled.

It is an established fact that at the present time no statesman can afford to disregard the importance of public opinion. To carry on a war is impossible—west of the Russian frontier, at any rate—unless wide sections of the nation are convinced of its necessity. But since no civilized people would wantonly wish for war, they must be imbued with the growing idea of its necessity—a thing which Richelieu did not find necessary. Here a frightful abyss opens before us, for lo! the clever lie acts as strongly as the truth since it is believed! It is sufficient to obtain possession of a certain number of widely read and therefore influential papers, and to place them under a uniform management. Within a few years the desired end will be attained. The misleading of a whole people has perhaps never before in the world's history been schemed and carried through in such a crafty, shameless and iniquitous way, as the misleading of England in regard to Germany. It is this misleading information which is responsible for the present war.

From the beginning England has been the driving force. England desired and brought about the war. England caused the estrangement between Russia and Germany; and it was England which incessantly nursed in France the idea of revenge.

Such a policy could only be rendered possible by a systematic and diligent deception of the English people.

It was a handful of men who, in cold blood, for the furthering of material interests, decided upon this course a few years ago. The impetus was given by a king; the intellectual capacity was furnished by a soulless, astute statesman, acting on the old English principle that in affairs of State, hypocrisy and lies are the best weapons; the "management" of the misleading in England was entrusted to a skilful man of the press who was ready to advocate any opinion as long as he profited by it.

At the time of which I am speaking the latter already owned papers of the most diverse directions. He went on buying new ones until even the London *Times*, the tendency of which had for a long time been influenced by him, passed into his hands. To-day, parading under the title of Lord, which conceals his real name as well as his non-English descent, he does what he will with the English people. One example will suffice.

For years past the reports of the Berlin correspondent of the *Times* have been a perfect disgrace. What, with the invention of positive and negative lies, has been achieved by this unscrupulous man, who must be held guilty of much of the misery caused by this war, is well-nigh impossible to believe. I have several times asked why the German people did not whip this base vilifier across the frontiers of their country. The reply given was always: "There is no law against lying."

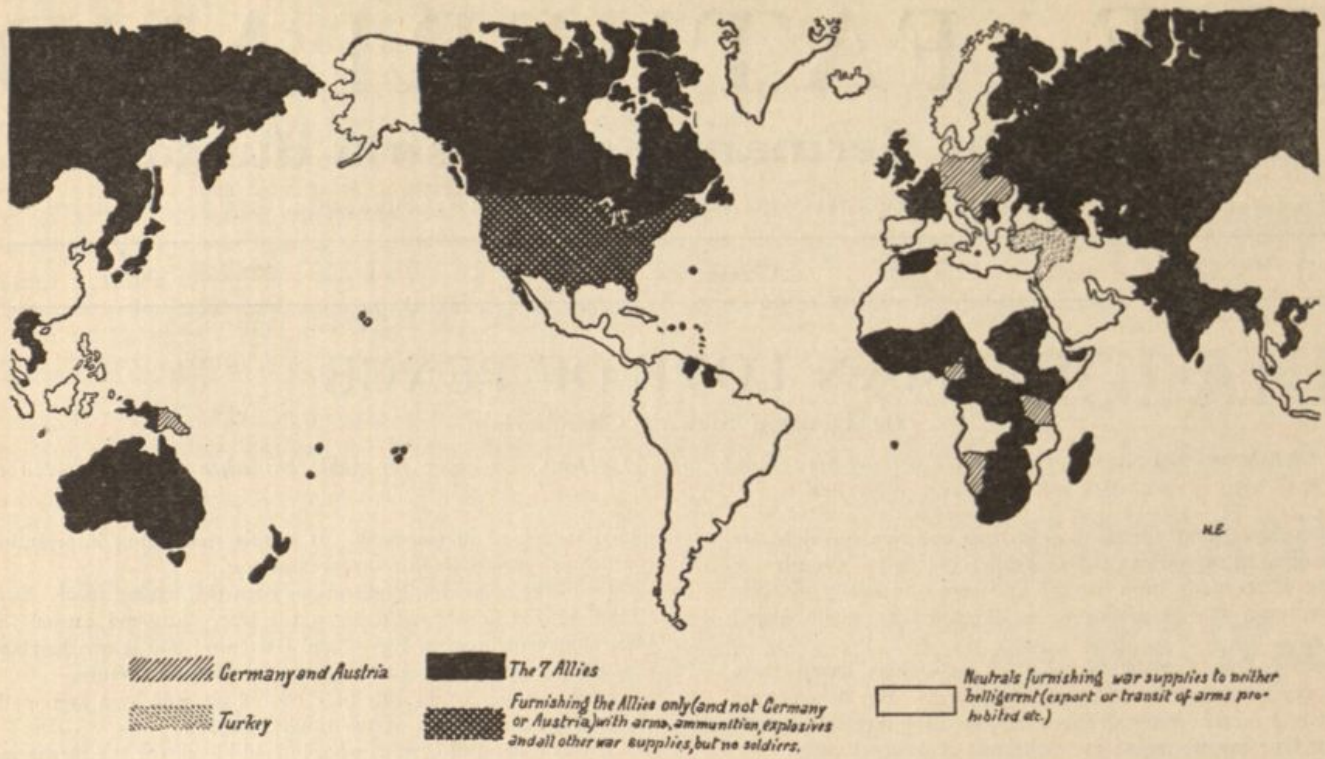
This is a law that must now be made; liars who endanger the peace of Europe should be hung!

And now, after the forged fact of a Germany eager for war, the true facts: Germany is the sole country in Europe that sincerely wished to preserve peace. In this respect the testimony of a foreigner may be of some value:

For forty-five years I have associated principally with Germans, for the last thirty years I have lived continually in German countries. The love of the German way of living and thinking, of German science and art, sharpened my eyes without impairing my vision; my judgment remained strictly impartial; many things which I did not like when I first set foot upon German soil, I have not yet been able to become accustomed to. Connected with France from earliest childhood, and related to England by ties of blood, I remained free from prejudice.

True, I have always led a quiet life and have not sought to become acquainted with the country and the people by gaping or putting myself in the foreground. At a certain distance objects are seen more clearly than at close range; in quiet surroundings the ear perceives more distinctly than in the midst of confusion.

WHAT GERMANY HAS TO FIGHT



It must be understood that the natives of the colonies of the Allies are enlisted in the armies, whereas the Germans do not call the natives of their colonies to take arms against the whites.

And this is my testimony:

For the last forty-three years there has not been a single man in the whole domain of Germany who wanted war, not one! Anyone who asserts the contrary is—either consciously or unconsciously—uttering an untruth.

It has been my good fortune to know, thoroughly, Germans from all the various districts and of all classes, from His Majesty, the Emperor, down to the worthy tradesman with whom I have been in daily intercourse. I have known intimately statesmen, teachers, men of science, merchants, bankers, officers, engineers, poets, journalists, public functionaries, artists, physicians and lawyers, but never have I met any one among them who was bellicose.

In England, on the contrary, I found, during my last visits in 1907 and 1908, everywhere a frightful, blind hatred of Germany and the impatient expectation of a war of annihilation.

The absence of any animosity against foreign nations is a striking trait of the German character and of the Germans alone.

They err rather on the side of an exaggerated appreciation of the merits of other nations.

Moreover, every German knows that, in view of the geographical position of this country, he has much to fear and little to hope in case of a war. How, then, could a people in whose country industry, commerce and science have, during the last forty-three years, reached an ever increasing degree of prosperity and development, be expected to desire a war which might destroy all the fruits of this labor?

I am going beyond the limits of the space allotted me, and for that reason pass over much, confining myself to-day to but one point more. I wish to say a few words about Kaiser Wilhelm.

According to the statements of Germany's enemies, he was the only individual who had it in his power to turn the scale in favor of peace. I have not met the Kaiser often, but whenever I did see him, it was under especially favorable circumstances, outside of court ceremonial, affording an opportunity of exchanging our opinions freely without any fear of possible listeners. Never have I repeated one of the monarch's words; not that he confided secrets to my keeping, but because it is impossible for men in private life to foresee the consequences which a single word might have for a man in such a prominent position. Nor will I now depart from this principle. I feel convinced that I am not committing any indiscretion if I say that two traits in his character have always struck me as most notable because they formed, so to speak, the two "dominants" of all his feelings, thoughts and acts: the deep and ever present feeling of his responsibility before God, and—in close connection with this feeling, indeed, dependent upon it—the energetic, impetuous will to preserve to Germany the blessing of peace.

The power of Germany which owes so much to his personal care was not created to bring on war, but, on the contrary, to force jealous, evil-disposed neighbors to keep the peace.

Does not every act of the Kaiser prove it? Whenever, during the last ten years, the political situation became almost unbearable for Germany's national honor—and England did all in her power to bring about such conditions—he it was, the Kaiser, who, time and again, insisted upon peace. Not that there was such a thing as a war party in Germany; this is one of the *Times'* falsehoods. There were, it is true, responsible statesmen and soldiers who said, and with reason: if England and her allies want war at any price the sooner the better. But the Kaiser, before his God, could not yield to this argument; the sword was returned to its scabbard.

Wilhelm II had no dearer wish, of this I am fully convinced, than that of being able to say on his death-bed, "I have preserved to my country peace inviolable, history will call me the 'Emperor of Peace.'"

Should God grant the German and Austrian arms victory, a complete, overwhelming victory—for which we all implore Him, including those of us who are not Germans, but who esteem the welfare and culture of civilized mankind more highly than national vanity—then, but then only, will Europe enjoy a lasting peace. Then will the wish of the great and good Emperor, so shamefully betrayed by his equals in rank on foreign thrones, in the end be fulfilled, yes, be fulfilled more gloriously than he could have anticipated, vindicating Germany completely from the calumnies and untruths hurled against her. There will be all the greater reason, then, for calling him the "Emperor of Peace," for the peace thus obtained will be the original, individual work of Wilhelm II and the army.

THE GERMAN WOMAN OF TO-DAY

By Frank Koester, Consulting Engineer

Author of "Modern City Planning and Maintenance," "Hydroelectric Developments and Engineering," "The Price of Inefficiency," Etc.

(The German "hausfrau" is known to all through the medium of the joke sheets and the funny page. But in truth the German woman is totally different from the American's conception of her. She is, in reality, perhaps the most progressive and modern figure in the civilization of to-day. Mr. Frank Koester, in the following article, keenly analyzes her capacity and achievement and reveals her as she really is. In the next article Mr. Koester will discuss Germany's great educational system.)

NO very clear idea exists in America of what the German woman of to-day is like. That Germany has made great material progress, that she is leading in commerce, in industry, in science, in invention and in organization of every kind, is becoming more or less fully realized, but the position of the German woman and her relations to her country's progress, what she is, what she stands for, and what part she bears in the increasing struggle remains unknown.

To make the position of the German woman clear it will first be necessary to explain to American readers some of the social customs and life of the Germans of the present day which arise out of economic conditions and which affect the German woman in a way which gives her a different view upon life and a more commanding position in her environment than she is ordinarily supposed to have.

To most Americans, the term German woman conjures up a middle aged housewife, placid, portly and industrious, and mother of a large family beyond which she has no interests. This has been the conventional picture of the German woman for half a century or more. It is no more representative of German women of to-day than the conventional picture of the New England housewife is typical of American women. Times have changed both in Germany and in New England, and in Germany as in America, women occupy such varied and extended fields of endeavor that a picture characteristic of German women as a whole is difficult to draw. The best that can be done is a composite, and this must include women in all the higher professions, physicians, teachers, lawyers, heads of training schools; women of wealth and social position, the great class of the wives of the bureaucracy; women of the theater and of a certain superficial stylish life that has grown up as a result of the rapidly-increasing wealth of Germany, the women who are officers' wives, the middle class women, the women of the rural districts of all degrees of wealth and finally the peasant women, the wives of workmen and the large servant class who become the wives of skilled workmen and small business men.

It is obviously impossible to characterize such a tremendous contingent of humanity in a few words. At most, only a few salient characteristics of the larger groups can be outlined.

The organization of the family is considerably different in Germany than in the United States. The family is a stabler unit. The honor of the family comes before the honor of the individual. No matter what sacrifice must be made to maintain its social dignity, that sacrifice will be made. Divorce means disgrace. A German officer who is divorced or who divorces his wife is practically compelled to resign.

Marriage thus is not so lightly entered into as in the United States, where one marriage in twelve results in divorce.

But the chief feature that differentiates the family life of the German from that of the American lies in the custom of providing a dowry for the daughters of the family. To do this, the family will impoverish itself. It is a universal custom and it has a most profound effect upon every phase of German family life.

When the daughters of a family reach the marriageable age, the dowry must be provided. A German father will employ a large part of his means in the education of his sons and in the provision of a dowry for his daughters. His sons he will educate for the professions. As a long and expensive training is required, the sons' share will probably be exhausted by the time their education is completed. The share of the daughters becomes their dowry.

On account of the crowded condition of all walks of life in Germany, no young man, by the time he reaches a marriageable age, from 25 to 30, can hope to have any considerable amount of money saved. Nor can he expect for a considerable time to make a sufficient income to maintain a family.

It is the universal expectation, therefore, that when he marries, his wife will have sufficient dowry to materially assist in establishing the new family and to supply at least a portion of the income until, in the natural order of events, the husband's income increases to a normal point.

The German young man does not marry for money in the sense of being a fortune hunter, but as it is the custom for all daughters to have dowries, he does not ordinarily marry a girl who has none, as it would be impossible for him to set up a family in the proper manner.

On the other hand, it is by no means unusual for wealthy Germans to marry poor girls.

If the parents are not persons of means, he is not expected to have any money, for his family's fortune, such as it may be, is expected to go to make up the dowries of his sisters, and it is more important for his sisters to have dowries than for him to have money, as it is expected that he will marry some other fellow's sister who has a dowry.

This seems a very unromantic and prosaic, not to say mercenary proceeding, to the American, but as a practical matter, it is highly important to the welfare of the country.

In the United States the father of a family is not expected to provide his daughter with a dowry. In fact a young man who marries a girl with a dowry is rather frowned upon as a fortune hunter. The young man is expected to be able to maintain the girl of his choice in the manner to which she has been accustomed in her father's house.

The American young man, however, cannot do this very much better than can the German young man. As a consequence the American young man delays marriage until he is thirty-five or forty or even older, as he neither receives any assistance from his father nor from the father of his wife.

The American girl must, therefore, wait longer for a husband, while the American father not being under any social compulsion to either provide for his son or his daughter on their marriage retains in his own name his means and the children are left to struggle along as best they may, and to delay marriage indefinitely.

Delayed marriages are, as a matter of course, fatal to the proper increase of a country. The wealth of the fathers remains in the bank or in their investments, in America, whereas in Germany the father must divest himself, under the social custom of the dowry, of a very large proportion of his means, in order to enable his daughters to found families.

This system produces early marriages, and as the newly married couple start in life with as considerable an accumulated capital as the circumstances permit, they are able to have very much larger families than are possible to the American family in which the husband, inevitably, and the wife, as a rule, are much older at the time of marriage than in the German family.

Thus the German system accounts for the rapid increase in population and consequent power of the empire, while the genuine old American stock is dying out under the "romantic" system prevailing in the United States. The American system necessarily produces a greater degree of immorality and the custom of remaining so long unmarried renders the married state more irksome and less stable than where the parties are married earlier and may better adapt themselves to each other before their habits are settled.

The result of the German system is that girls as a rule are married between 18 and 21. There are, of course, a large body of German women who adopt professional careers who do not marry, at least not early, but the rule and custom is early marriage.

The German young man is very much more anxious to marry than is the American, for the very obvious reason that he can en-

joy the comforts of home life without assuming such great responsibilities. He, therefore, considers himself lucky to get a wife, rather than lucky to avoid marriage. He is by far less critical in a sense, but at the same time he marries for love just as much, as all girls have dowries.

In a practical sense, it is the young woman and her mother who, backed by the dowry, are in a position to take their choice of the marriageable young men. The girl is therefore more of the chooser than the man, and she goes into the matrimonial market practically as a purchaser of an eligible young man rather than as in the case in America to secure a position in life with the only asset, her personal charms.

Unions are thus very much more readily effected, and when the young man feels that his suit shows signs of being favored he quickly makes his intentions known to the parents and if the possibilities of the dowry and his own income will meet the prospective expenses of the family no further delay is necessary.

Although it is often a woeful strain upon the resources of the family of the girl, yet as the marriage of the daughter is in reality one of the principal purposes of the family's existence, it is desirable that the family which has practically fulfilled its function in the social organization should sacrifice itself for the benefit of the new family rather than that the new family, as in America, should be prevented from being formed.

The fact that the wife brings the dowry, and is thus an essential contributor to the family's foundation, makes the position of the wife much more secure in Germany than in America, where the husband supplies everything and where the wife is a luxury instead of a contributing partner to the domestic organization.

A German husband owes a greater practical moral duty to his wife than does the American. They are more helpmates than in America, and though the German husband and father lords it over his family in a somewhat autocratic way, or so it would seem to Americans, the wife accepts such "domination" with a very tranquil spirit. There is more bark than bite to the exercise of his authority, and the German wife, being in such a complete sense a partner, takes a very profound and intense interest in the success of the family as a family.

She is devoted to her children and a comrade of her husband, and though she may not exhibit the style in dress and the superficial acquirements of some of the luxuriously inclined American wives, who must always seek in attractiveness and in other ways to make up for the burdens they lay upon their husbands, she is at all times a tower of moral and social and usually of physical strength to the family.

There is, further, no question of the incisive discipline over the children. During the years of their childhood the family has in view the time when the daughters must in turn be provided with a dowry and the sons with a professional education, and the sacrifices which must be made for them entitle the parents to exercise such a discipline, and the prospect of the benefits which they are to derive from the family cannot fail to have its influence in bending the children to that discipline, even if the German character was not one that recognized discipline as an essential attribute to success.

The American youth not expecting to derive many benefits from his family, and his family not expecting to, or at least not being under the social obligation of affording him any particular assistance either to himself or to his sisters, begins to consider his own interests at an earlier age and is inclined to branch off into some endeavor by which he can get rich as quickly as possible, disregarding the advice of his elders in a way which a German youth would never think of doing.

As it is impossible for the young people of a nation, such as the United States as a whole, to gain the means which is conferred upon their class in a country in which the dowry system prevails, as in Germany, the whole family life suffers by comparison and the difference in organization is largely productive of the difference between the American and the German family.

The German woman, more secure in her position, becomes more of a useful than an ornamental member of society. She takes a less obtrusive, but at the same time a more practically decisive rôle in the national life. The German woman is the modern Spartan. In times of stress and war, such as Germany is now passing through, all the old Teuton vigor and nobility of character comes to the front. The German soldier does not leave behind the woman who helplessly weeps but the woman who inspires him to the utmost efforts as she is ready for the utmost sacrifices.

Though unadvertised the German woman is a tremendous source of moral strength to the German nation. Her splendid qualities are so well understood and appreciated that the adulation and praise and publicity which are given to the women of other countries would seem a confession of weakness if applied to the German woman.

But it should not be imagined that because the German woman devotes herself so much to her family that she is by any means an uninformed or uninteresting person. The women of Germany, class for class, have a very much better education than the women of any other nation.

The courses of study in German schools are very much more severe and as a rule fifty per cent. longer than the corresponding courses of the schools of other countries. Not only are the courses more rigorous, but the pupils take a greater interest in their studies and are much more eager to learn.

The German woman is thus always very well educated. In addition, she invariably has some particular accomplishment in which she excels. She is informed on all branches of art, particularly music, and is an appreciative patron of the theatre, music, painting, sculpture and the other arts.

The German woman in dress is far from the conventional idea of a half century ago. If she has means she is the equal of the highest type of the Parisienne. In any event, she always dresses in the best of taste and insists upon a high quality of materials. She never overdresses and is never loud or unconventional.

It not infrequently happens, and to their amusement, that German women visiting America are not taken for Germans for the reason that they are so much better dressed than Americans suppose to be the custom of German women.

The increase of wealth in Germany in the last generation has been so great that a wide variety of luxuries are within the reach of all persons of any social standing whatever. This increase of wealth reflects itself in dress, in the use of automobiles and other equipages, in residences and furnishings and the various visible evidences of material prosperity which wealth usually takes. The picture of Germany as a poor country and of the German woman as a frugal and unadorned housewife is a picture of the past.

Nevertheless, the German woman, even of the highest class, has not lost her devotion to her family. Her interest in her household and in her children and their education and training remains her most noticeable characteristic. Owing to the fact that there is a very large class of women who enter domestic service, the German woman can afford to keep more servants than the woman of other countries, and she consequently has greater leisure for other pursuits.

Servants in Germany receive much better treatment than in America, and often are treated just as members of the family. Their position is more that of relatives than of menials, and this contributes to the comfort of domestic life.

The German woman takes a great interest in outdoor life. She is given much to walking and to sports of all kinds to a degree unimagined in the United States. She does not go in much for contested games, but rather for mountain climbing, long walking tours, skiing, toboganning, hunting, riding, swimming, rowing and sports requiring great physical endurance, and in which her costume is usually short skirts, knickerbockers or jerseys.

Withal, the German woman, being highly educated and imbued with a sense of responsibility in the rearing of her children, takes a much keener interest in public affairs than her sisters in other countries. Although she has not made as much noise about her rights as have the women of England, there is very little doubt but that she will vote before they do. In breadth of view and progressiveness and in the qualities by which she contributes to the greatness of her country, the German woman is the equal, certainly, if not greatly the superior, of the women of other countries.

THE PATHETIC CASE OF PROFESSOR ELIOT

By George Sylvester Viereck

SHORTLY before President Eliot closed his forty years of administration of Harvard University he had reached the climax of his influence in America. Immediately afterward he compromised himself by his book on religion which irritated everyone and satisfied no one who had any religious feeling. Then he connected his name with that trivial commercial undertaking, the "Five Foot Bookshelf," and the character of that undertaking disappointed even his closest friends. At the same time he became a fanatic for total abstinence, while he himself did not give up his glass of wine. Harvard University quickly reversed his policies and abandoned the principle of unrestricted election of courses for college students which had been his best known achievement. All this combined in reducing his influence with serious people more and more. With the war the time has come when it must crumble completely.

It is not forgotten how he broke out at once into wild abuse of the German Emperor, who with a small military clique stood in opposition to the whole German nation which did not want the war and was only dragged to the battlefield. As even the bitterest enemies of Germany showed to Mr. Eliot how grotesque these falsehoods were, he was forced to acknowledge that the opposite was true and that Emperor and nation were absolutely one in this war. But this did not in the least change his temper; instead of confining his abuse to the Emperor he now turned to the whole nation and began to demonstrate for the pleasure of an unthinking public that the German nation really was devoid of any virtues and merits and that its achievements were only a fable. His sad work has been crowned by the paper which he publishes in the April number of the *Atlantic Monthly* called "National Efficiency Best Developed Under Free Governments." It may be doubted whether the president of a large American university ever before sank so low. We hear the old story that "the German scholars, historians, statesmen and diplomats, and indeed the educated classes" . . . "do not know what political and social liberty is." We hear that "a German woman at her best is a successful housewife, a diligent attendant on husband and children." "The German woman of to-day has grown up and lived in an atmosphere of compulsion and discipline which no American woman has had to endure for two centuries past." The paper becomes almost humorous when Eliot makes heroic efforts to demonstrate that the Germans have been inefficient in all fields of discovery and invention. He enumerates certain French, English, Italian and American achievements, and because these particular inventions were not made by the Germans, therefore the Germans stand on a much lower level. Even a beginner in science ought to know better. But all is outdone by his comparative estimate of the leaders in civilization. "In the first place German literature and philosophy are like German industrial development comparatively young. That they should become preeminent so soon is not to be expected." Eliot evidently does not know anything about the great German literature of the Middle Ages. Schiller and Goethe do not appear to him preeminent and above all, while the whole world acknowledges that the Germans, Leibnitz and Kant, Fichte and Hegel, were the greatest philosophers since Plato and Aristotle, he does not discover eminent philosophy in Germany. He generalizes: "Germany has produced no man who can be placed beside Dante, Michelangelo and Cavour in Italy, Shakespeare, Milton, Newton, Faraday and Darwin in England, or Pasteur in France." He has evidently not heard of Luther or Kant, of Goethe or Beethoven, of Frederick or Bismarck, of Gauss or Helmholtz. It seemed impossible to go still further. But Eliot succeeds in his last statement in which he says that it would be "profane to mention Bismarck and the present German Emperor in the same breath with Washington and Lincoln." A writer who claims to be taken seriously might well study how in the eighteenth century Washington and Frederick the Great, how in the nineteenth Lincoln and Bismarck, compare with each other; and opinions may well differ. On the first of April the Germans all over the world celebrated the hundredth anniversary of Bismarck, the greatest European statesman of the last hundred years. Exactly on this day President Eliot calls it profane to mention his name in the same breath with America's greatest statesman of the last century. That is a cut across the face of every German-American, and it will not soon be forgotten.

THE ENGLISH CHANCELLOR'S BOOKKEEPING

WHEN LIARS FIGURE

By the Financial Expert of *The Fatherland*

LLOYD GEORGE, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his speech in the Parliament, dealing with the finances of the Allies, trespassed the truth with usual British impertinence. He speaks of the safe-guarding of the English gold reserve and that all efforts will be made to retain for London the distinction of being the free market for gold. According to his statement an arrangement has been made with the two other important Allies, France and Russia, whereby they will depart with some of their gold for the benefit of the London market, should the English gold reserve fall beneath a certain percentage agreed upon. He says, in part: "The position of the great Allied countries as to gold is exceptionally strong. Russia and France have accumulated great reserves which have been barely touched so far during the war. I do not think the French reserve has been touched at all, OR HAS BEEN USED IN THE SLIGHTEST DEGREE, and I think as far as the Russian reserve is concerned it has *only* been reduced by the transfer of £8,000,000,000 of gold from Russia to this country.

The assertion that the gold reserves of France as well as Russia remain practically untouched, and the reserve of France not having been used to the slightest degree, runs on a par with the continuous assertion on the part of the British that in their warfare with Germany they have observed to the letter the usage of International law.

What must the London Economists and the London bankers think of Lloyd George's statement after they have examined the balance sheets of the Bank of France and the Imperial Bank of Russia? It cannot be an easy matter for the leading lights in the upper banking circle of London to digest the false statement made by the financial spokesman of Official England without a murmur, but the British censor looks after that.

According to the London *Economist*, the last statement of the Banque de France, shows:

	March 5, 1915	March 5, 1914
Notes outstanding	£442,900,000	£237,372,000
Gold	169,615,000	144,118,000
Percentage of gold cover for notes	38.2%	60.8%

The same authority shows the following status of the Imperial Bank of Russia:

	Feb. 21, 1915	Feb. 21, 1914
Notes outstanding	£307,677,000	£161,901,000
Gold	156,901,000	154,183,000
Percentage of gold cover for notes	51%	95%

A drop in the percentage of gold reserve covering the notes from 60.8% to 38.2% in the case of the Banque de France, and

from 95% to 51% as in the instance of the Imperial Bank of Russia, is not anything to Lloyd George—"barely been touched, in fact not touched at all," he calls it.

The theory of Lloyd George apparently runs on the following comfortable lines: You have a house—you raise the mortgage from 40% to about 70% of its value. Ordinary mortals would say under such circumstances that the house has been "touched." Not Lloyd George, however. According to his theory the house remains untouched. The house remains untouched as long as nobody takes part of the roof or some bricks from it. A splendid theory indeed, which, however, could be only advanced by a nation which has not only lost its credit but a good bit of its common sense as well.

For those who are banking on the financial capacity of the Allies, it might be well to watch carefully the gold reserves of the Central Banks and the activity of their note press. Look at the proportion of gold to notes outstanding. Take careful note of such a depreciation as was shown in the status of the Bank of England in the published report of April 1st. Since the beginning of the year the Reserve of the Bank of England has fallen from 33% to 18¼%! The *Wall Street Journal* begins its comment on the showing of the Bank of England with the exclamation: "It is too bad to be true!" In this, at least, THE FATHERLAND fully agrees with the *Wall Street Journal.*

THE CHICAGO ELECTION

By Horace L. Brand

(The interpretation of the Chicago election, which appeared in last week's issue of THE FATHERLAND, *was national in scope and discussed the subject from the angle of national politics. The following account of the Chicago election is from the pen of Mr. Horace L. Brand, Editor of the Illinois* STAATS-ZEITUNG, *and one of the many prominent German-Americans in Chicago who fought Mr. Sweitzer, tooth and nail.)*

IN the election Tuesday, April 6, 1915, William Hale Thompson received 399,038 votes, and for Robert M. Sweitzer 251,061 votes were cast (according to the official count), which gives Mr. Thompson a plurality of 147,977 votes. Of these there were cast by men for Thompson, 250,216, and for Sweitzer, 161,170; and by women, for Thompson, 148,825, and for Sweitzer, 89,882. Thus Mr. Thompson received 89,046 more votes from men and 58,943 more votes from women than did Mr. Sweitzer. Comparing the votes cast by men in this election with the votes cast by men in previous mayorality contests, we discover that Mr. Thompson's plurality is larger, in actual figures as well as in percentage of all votes cast, than that obtained by any mayorality candidate in the last twelve years, which includes the elections of the former mayors Busse (Republican), Dunne and Harrison (Democrats). Thus Mr. Thompson's election is a veritable Republican landslide.

What caused this tremendous Republican victory in a city that, ordinarily, is Democratic?

The consensus of opinion is that the Chicago voters are dissatisfied with the Democratic national administration and showed their dissatisfaction by voting for the Republican candidates.

This view is borne out by the following facts:

1. Each Republican candidate for a city office was elected by a large plurality, and of the 37 Republican candidates for the city council 24 were elected, with the result that the common council of Chicago is lost by the Democrats.

2. Local questions were argued during the entire contest by the Democrats and victory was conceded to Sweitzer up to ten days before the election. The Democrats did not argue "national issues" to any noticeable degree.

3. The Republicans used local and national issues as campaign thunder during the entire battle for votes, but during the last ten days of the campaign they subordinated the local questions to the national arguments of "full dinner pail" and "unneutral Democratic policies."

No local issue, nor the cumulative effect of all local issues, could have brought about for either party, the tremendous pluralities which the last election gave to the Republican candidates in Chicago.

The German-American issue had little effect upon the final result. The large majority of citizens of German descent voted for the Republican candidates. Proof of this is furnished by the pluralities given to these candidates in the seven wards in which the so-called German vote is the decisive factor. Of these wards five rolled up large pluralities for Mr. Thompson, one gave Sweitzer a large plurality and one he carried by a small margin.

A committee of American citizens of German lineage distributed a plain circular without embellishment, picture or design attesting that Robert M. Sweitzer is a German-American because his father, Martin Sweitzer, was born in Baden, Germany. At the eleventh hour, fearing that the tide was drawing away from Sweitzer, the Democrats in charge of Mr. Sweitzer's campaign, sent out thousands of copies of a circular, bearing the pictures of Kaiser William and Emperor Francis Joseph, in which circular a last appeal was made to vote for Sweitzer because he is a German-American.

The Republicans replied to the first circular but not to the last one, by a letter signed by many prominent citizens of German descent that Sweitzer's election would not mean a German-American success, but his defeat would be a victory for the honest, independent and unselfish German element.

The Republican victory, virtually a landslide, is a protest of Chicago against the Democratic party and its national administration.

THE MAN WHO NEVER SAILED UNDER FALSE COLORS

By Captain K. Boy-Ed, of the German Navy

*(*THE FATHERLAND *has in its possession a letter from a gentleman, who prefers that his name be not mentioned, in which he states that he was told personally by First Lieutenant Lauterbach, of the "Emden," whom he met at Singapore, that the Captain of the "Emden" never hoisted any flag but the German colors at the masthead of his famous ship. In fact the "Emden" sailed boldly into the harbor of Penang with the German flag gallantly flying aloft. It is true, however, that she used a fourth sham funnel. Capt. Boy-Ed in the following little article quotes from a letter written by the mother of Capt. Müller, in which she proudly states the same facts regarding her distinguished son.)*

IN the article "Germany Carries the War to England's Coasts" in THE FATHERLAND of February 17th, is the following statement:

"The English apologists in this country attempt to justify this act by citing the fact that the German cruiser *Emden* flew the Russian flag as she sailed into an enemy's port and destroyed a Russian cruiser and two French torpedo boats.

"The distinction is one that must, or at least should be known to those who assume to write with authority. The *Emden* was not flying a neutral flag, but the flag of a belligerent with whom she was at war, and hence no violation of neutrality was involved in her action, a ruse of war authorized by international law."

In reply to this I beg to say that, although I am as yet without official information upon the case, it gives me pleasure to quote from a letter received recently from Blankenburg (Germany), written by the mother of Captain von Mueller (translated): "In American newspapers I have found the statement repeated several times, evidently without any harmful intention, that my son, when he entered the Harbor of Penang and sank two ships, had hoisted the Japanese flag. I am quite sure that it would be utterly impossible for my son to sail under any other flag than his own country's. I beg you, wherever an opportunity offers, to deny such untruth, and I thank you in advance for every trouble you will kindly take in this matter."

WHY THE NEFARIOUS TRAFFIC IN ARMS SHOULD CEASE

By Dr. Edmund von Mach

Author of "What Germany Wants."

THE following letter has been received in reply to the article on the exportation of arms, published two weeks ago:

LAW OFFICES OF
WILLIAM C. DENNIS
810-812 UNION TRUST BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 8, 1915.

DEAR SIR:

In a recent issue of THE FATHERLAND Dr. Edmund von Mach contributed an article entitled "The Embargo on Arms—What is the Law?" The salient feature of Dr. von Mach's article is the statement "that one reason why the Declaration of London has not been openly renounced is because it legalized to a certain extent the exportation of arms and munitions of war. Renounce the declaration of London and the exportation of arms becomes a hostile act, forbidden to those nations who wish to remain neutral."

I respectfully submit that this statement is absolutely erroneous. The right of the citizens of any neutral nation, without compromising the neutrality of their country, to sell and export arms and munitions of war to a belligerent, subject to the right of the other belligerent to intercept such shipments on the high seas is ancient, unquestionable, and with all deference has for a long time been substantially unquestioned. It was defended by Jefferson and Hamilton a hundred years ago on practically the same ground upon which it was asserted by the official reporter of Convention 5 of the Hague Conference of 1907, to which Germany and the United States are parties, and which reads: Art. 7: "A neutral power is not called upon to prevent the export or transport on behalf of one or other of the belligerents of arms, munitions of war, or in general of anything which can be of use to any army or fleet." I refer to this Convention not as technically in force, but as affording a concise statement of the acknowledged rule of law which the German government has accepted in the abstract in the recent correspondence, although it complains of the American shipments of arms and munitions of war as inconsistent with the "spirit of real neutrality" under the peculiar circumstances.

Dr. von Mach appears to have gained the impression that the right of neutral individuals (not of course a neutral nation) to sell and export munitions of war arises from the Declaration of London of 1909, from certain passages in Bowles "Sea Law and Sea Power." But while the passages quoted, standing alone, might have the meaning which Dr. von Mach attributes to them, a perusal of their context will, it is believed, show that Mr. Bowles was merely speaking of trade in contraband as forbidden in the sense that contraband was liable to capture on the high seas. Mr. Bowles was complaining of Sir Edward Grey for allowing this right of capture to be curtailed, a subject which is dealt with in the Declaration of London. He could not have had reference to the right of a neutral to ship, subject to the liability of capture, which is not dealt with in the Declaration of London, but is simply assumed since it had always existed. But even if it be thought that Bowles was in error about this matter, it could not change the unquestionable fact that a right which our infant nation asserted and made good against both England and France a hundred years ago does not grow out of the Declaration of London of 1909.

I am sure Dr. von Mach, who has been conspicuous for his endeavor to maintain a fair and reasonable tone in all that he has written in regard to the war, will cheerfully admit when this matter is brought specifically to his attention that he has fallen into error, and will be the first to desire that an inadvertent misstatement, which, in view of its nature and source might seriously affect the views of many of your readers as to the justice of the policy now being pursued by our government, should be corrected. Will you not, therefore, as a matter of fairness, give space to this communication?

Very respectfully,

W. C. DENNIS.

In the above letter Mr. Dennis states with perfect accuracy the position maintained diplomatically by Jefferson, Hamilton and other American statesmen. Their position, however, has rarely if ever been enforced, especially since the American courts, as Mr. T. Gibson Bowles delights in declaring to the world, have always decided in opposition to the diplomatic contentions of the country.

At present the American Government has submitted to England's glaring infringements of the Declaration of London. In other words, it is not pressing the century-old American contentions that the sea should be free. England is disregarding what may be called the written laws of nations and is reverting to what the leader of the parliamentary majority which prevented the ratification of the Declaration of London called the common, i.e., the unwritten Law of Nations. There can be no doubt in the minds of those who read Br. Bowles' book that America's conduct is unneutral, as he reads the Law of Nations.

The contention of the advocates of an embargo is that America cannot afford to suspend the written laws when such a course favors England, and advance them as an excuse for those actions of her citizens which inure to the detriment of Germany. Let everybody read Mr. Bowles' arguments against the Declaration of London, and he will see that the English partliamentary majority would look upon America's exportation of munitions of war, if directed against England, as a *casus belli*. America herself is on record as holding the same view, when she suffered by the exportation of arms from a "neutral" country. During the Mexican War, Mr. Buchanan, Secretary of War, wrote as follows, February 22, 1847: "The officer in command must first be satisfied, however, of the real bona fide neutrality of Yucatan; and in case he should afterwards at any time discover that under the guise of neutrality the Yucatanese are carrying on a contraband trade and furnishing Mexico with arms and munitions of war, he will be instructed without further orders from his government to recommence hostile operations."

Germany is in no position to make war upon America, and the millions of Americans of German descent will use all their influence to make Germany condone the conduct of America, which in spirit certainly is unneutral. America wants peace with all nations, but she is too big and her ideals are too high to pursue a course which is bound to give offence to a nation beset by overwhelming odds.

It is, however, not on the score of Germany alone that the advocates of an embargo on arms wish to influence public opinion. To them it is a question of national honor and morality. Legal authorities are quoted merely to show that there are precedents which permit America to give legal expression to her moral convictions.

Their chief appeal, however, is made to the hearts of their fellow citizens. The case would not be so bad if only the established factories were selling their products. But new factories are being built everywhere, and financed through the banks often with the very money of the people whose brothers and relatives are to be killed by the bullets there manufactured.

In the interest of the Union it is incumbent upon the majority not to turn a deaf ear to what very deeply touches the innermost feelings of a considerable part of their fellow citizens. It is no longer a question of the continuation of an ordinary trade, for the proportions of the artificially stimulated American export trade in munitions of war have grown so big that this trade amounts practically to a participation of America in the war. No thoughtful American can contemplate this fact without serious alarm. There is only one way which can avoid the terrible consequences of such a course, and that is the speedy cessation of this murderous traffic

THE FATHERLAND

Fair Play for Germany and Austria-Hungary

Edited by
GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK
FREDERICK F. SCHRADER

ONE GERMAN EQUAL TO 16 ENGLISHMEN

GENERAL FRENCH has called particular attention to the heroic conduct of the English in the battle of Neuve Chapelle. Now Dr. Dernburg, in a note to the New York *Times,* throws a stream of cold water on British bluster by quoting from a written proclamation issued before the attack by General Haig, whose heroism in that engagement is ardently eulogized by the English commander-in-chief. General Haig on March 9 referred to the prospective engagement in these words: "We are about to attack with about 48 battalions a locality in that front which is held by some three German battalions." As there are about 1,000 men in each battalion, the great achievement of the English by which they admittedly lost 12,000 men resolves itself into the proportion of 48,000 Englishmen against 3,000 Germans—or the Bryan ratio of 16 to 1—and their total gain was about 400 yards of ground. In the battle of the Masurian lakes in which the Germans killed 150,000 Russians and took 100,000 prisoners, the proportion was only about six Russians to one German.

TO BOLSTER UP RUSSIAN LOANS

THE intelligent reader of the daily war news manufactured to order for Lord Northcliffe will have noticed that whenever the "great offensive movements" of the Allies crumble, and particularly when the Russians suffer a wholesale defeat, his attention is immediately directed into new channels that will make him forget the disasters of the day before. Promptly on the heels of the terrible defeat of the Russians in what is known as the "winter campaign" came the news of the forcing of the Dardanelles. When the combined English and French fleet was crumpled up in the Dardanelles came the taking of the Carpathians by the Russians with the attendant "defeat of the German army" and "the piercing of the Austro-Hungarian army," "the invasion of Hungary," etc. No sooner had the news begun to sift through in driblets that the Russians had lost 500,000 men in the Carpathians and were retreating than followed the news of the crushing defeat of the Turks by the English in Mesopotamia. These phenomena can be explained on the same theory that German aviators invariably slaughter old men, women and children, and destroy only churches and monuments.

ACTS OF GERMAN BARBARIANS

BOROUGH PRESIDENT DOUGLAS MATHEWSON one day last week bestowed the life-saving medal on forty-seven men for individually saving from one to six persons from watery graves in and around New York City. Of the forty-seven, two-thirds were hyphenated Americans, the sons of German parents, and hence "more German than American." This incident should by all means be included in the chapter of "German atrocities."

AMERICAN MILITARISM

THE American Locomotive Company has received an order for $65,000,000 worth of war munitions. This company was formed for constructive purposes and not for the manufacture of instruments of murder. But because of the large profits to be made from selling war material to the Allies this corporation has decided that building such useful things as locomotives for the use of legitimate American business could very well be relegated to a place of no importance in its organization. Now this interesting problem presents itself. What will The American Locomotive Company do after the war? Will they and the other ammunition companies maintain a lobby at Washington, the object of which will be to straddle upon the United States a tremendous military burden until we shall groan like the English people under the weight of their Navalism?

DR. DERNBURG AND DR. BUTLER

THE president of Columbia University states that Dr. Dernburg's letter to Mr. H. G. Beyer, Jr., because of its subtlety, brilliancy and constructive thought, must be the work of Prince Buelow. Now no one ever accused anyone else of writing Dr. Butler's books. They are so commonplace, dull and uninteresting that it is obvious at once that only Dr. Butler could be their author. Now actually Dr. Dernburg did write his already famous letter. Dr. Dernburg, like many other German statesmen, has a complete knowledge of several languages. Of course Dr. Butler cannot write nor speak German. He is only the president of an American university and therefore no one expects him to be as cultured as a "barbarian."

HAS OKLAHOMA JOINED THE ALLIES?

THE State of Oklahoma, according to the New York *Times,* has made the matter of Belgian relief an official matter and the Governor has issued a proclamation calling upon the people to do all in their power to lessen the sufferings of the unfortunate people of that country. Governor R. L. Williams is himself the active head of the Oklahoma Belgian Committee.

For Governor Williams to bestir himself so actively in the cause of the unfortunate Belgians who were so ignominiously deserted by the English is highly commendable indeed, but will the kind Governor also issue a proclamation to the neutral citizens of Oklahoma asking them to contribute to a fund for the relief of the unhappy German peasants in East Prussia, whose homes were destroyed by the Russian hordes. Perhaps the neutral inhabitants of Oklahoma would prefer this method of showing their sympathy.

THE AMERICAN TRUTH SOCIETY

The American Truth Society was organized in January, 1912, at the Hotel Astor, to propagate true Americanism. It is a non-partisan patriotic society, and knows no race, creed or color. It has established the Public Forum as a means of disseminating facts and views which the Press for some reason won't publish.

On April 18, Mr. Jeremiah A. O'Leary, President of the Society, delivered a stirring speech on the Press. The program for the next few weeks is as follows: April 25—The seizure of the *Dacia* and *Wilhelmina;* May 2—The ocean blockade; May 9—The exportation of arms and ammunition. Distinguished and competent speakers will address the Forum on each subject at the Cort Theatre, N. Y.

We hope that branches of this Society will be organized throughout the country and amplify the good work already done.

THE MILITARY SITUATION

By the Military Expert of *The Fatherland*

SIR JOHN FRENCH has at last gone to the war reporters. Hitherto it was not customary for field marshals to publish accounts of lost or ungained battles. But that kind of justification or apology seems to be a tribute to be paid to the disappointed public opinion of England. The people of England cannot understand why more than 13,000 men had to be sacrificed in order to throw three German battalions out of a trench, and to gain 600 yards of ground.

This illustrated account is of military interest to us because it shows what measures have to be taken to strengthen the weakened faith in the ultimate success of the "Entente that fights for Civilization," and what steps (unjustifiable from a military point of view) the British army leaders feel compelled to take in order to prove that it is not only Russia and France that defray the expense and bear the burden of this campaign.

Sir John gives as the chief reason for the attempt to break through the German lines the desirability of renewing and re-animating the offensive spirit of the troops. But if that is necessary with the picked British troops that fight in the foremost line, what will have to be done to instil the "joy of battle" into Kitchener's untrained millions.

The failure of that military operation for which Sir R. Haig is praised so highly, is assigned to the bad ordnance system behind the British front,—a front which has been perfected by the most modern technical means.

The same success which was destined to the English offensive is shared by the French offensive.

For the last fortnight the French army has been hammering the German position in the Champagne country between the rivers Meuse and Moselle, and in the Vosges Mountains. Without considering the greatness of sacrifices, attacks are pushed everywhere day and night.

Strategically speaking, the German wedge which is far advanced in a southwesterly direction, with its point at St. Mihiel, no doubt offers a splendid chance for attacking both wings of that position. Thus a simultaneous attempt was made to push back the German fronts near the slopes of the Woevre plain as well as between St. Mihiel and Pont-a-Mousson, violent attacks being made from Ailly S/M. All in vain! Reports have been published that Les Esparges has been taken from the Germans after a sanguinary battle. But Les Esparges never was in the German line, but merely an advanced observation post. Total result: Just as at Neuve Chapelle, enormous sacrifices and no success whatever!

At the eastern theatre the situation at first looked rather grave after the fall of Przemysl. Large Russian forces were then relieved, and marched across the Dukla and Lupkow passes.

Very desperate and sanguinary battles ensued; the Austrian army leaders refer to them as the most gigantic battles in the world's history. Our brave allies and our own army corps led by Major General v. Linsingen succeeded in frustrating the hostile assaults.

Since then fresh German forces have initiated a smart offensive against the Russian flank that had pushed towards Dukla. Consequently the Russian attack has altogether collapsed.

Again a co-operation between leaders and troops—unprecedented in history! Only a soldier can fully appreciate the difficulties which both had to overcome. Railways, almost impossible passages across the mountains, reinforcement of ammunition and commissariat—all that had to be organized and utilized in order to be victorious.

Only occasional reports come from the remaining theatres of the war.

British dominion on the seas had to pay dearly at the Dardanelles. I have explained before that huge forces on land are requisite before it is possible to think of taking the Dardanelles. Russia must know by this time that her two Allies will not make her a present of them and that she has to go to Constantinople herself before the Te Deum can be sung in the Hagia Sophia.

The Holy War carries slowly but surely its message to Mohammedan lands. In Egypt thousands of native soldiers have joined the Turkish cause, and all India is seething with political fermentations.

THE CARTOON OF THE WEEK

Kladderadatsch

"Love's Labour's Lost"

"O well, come and join us at last. The word 'faithful' is only a miserable invention of those German barbarians."

Japan wants to "grab" what she can get hold of now. We can thoroughly understand her point of view. She has thirty-five millions inhabitants, whilst China has 450 millions. China has to yield to the wishes of the small-island people.

Turtle Bay is a splendid naval base for enterprises undertaken against a squadron that should dare to pass through the Panama Canal in order to assert any possible claims in the Pacific.

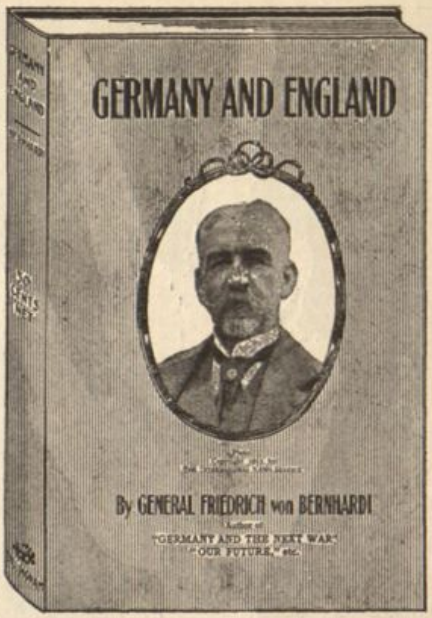
Yesterday the *Sun* remarked that Japan would hardly dare to implicate the United States in a war against the will of the Allies. What bitter though involuntary irony those words convey!

After all, are not Treitschke and Bernhardi justified in proclaiming the right of self-government as the supreme law of nations? Not militarism! But the will to assume in the counsel of the nations that place to which Germany is entitled by her great abilities, qualities and achievements, and which it is willed and bound to occupy: that is what the present hour has to teach the world!

J. P. MORGAN, JR., CHIP OF THE OLD BLOCK

J. PIERPONT MORGAN, JR., is a chip of the old block, and like as not he will be a greater man than his father. He is the American banker of the Russo-English alliance and is prepared to lend American millions to Russia, England and whatever power may be in need of money to enter the war against Germany and Austria-Hungary. This money flows into the Morgan bank from all parts of the United States through affiliated local banks, and you who are neutral or friendly to Germany and her ally are probably allowing your deposits and savings to be used to help along the cause of the Russian alliance.

We heard of a rich New Yorker the other day who withdrew all his money and securities from a bank doing business with the Morgan house because he would not allow his money to be used to buy arms for the Allies and continue the war. The moral is plain.



HIS first book since the war is, in a sense, a reply to Professor Cramb's attack on Bernhardi's writings. This new book is one of the important publications of the season. In it General Bernhardi shows that the war was forced by England and that Germany is not to blame; that England as well as France and Belgium violated the neutrality agreement before ever a German soldier set foot on Belgian soil, and that "World-Power, not World-Dominion," is his reply to Professor Cramb's attack on his writings. He also declares that in the event of a German victory, only the most friendly relations will exist between that country and the United States. He says: "I have indeed proved, I think, that war is a necessity in the life of nations," under circumstances that he gives. He tells when war is despicable and when it is not—this one is not. The book is illuminating reading for the Americans who have read the author's previous book, for it explains the misrepresentations given to it in this country. In a lucid and arresting way he shows Americans how the titanic struggle was forced upon Germany and how German militarism constitutes no menace to America, and how in case of German victory, "become a danger for the world in general, and especially for the American Continent, is equally groundless." It should be read by all who want to be informed on the latest literature on the war, by representative men. 12mo, cloth bound, 50c.

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

By Louis Viereck, Berlin Correspondent

Reputed German Atrocities

IN the French Official Gazette, the long heralded "Documents of German Atrocities," which a "Parliamentary Commission" had collected, were revealed. Although there are numerous photographs presented with it, the document is concerned throughout with complaints, the proof of which even reasonable Frenchmen must doubt. In silence the Official Gazette passes over the highly important fact that, in the first week after war broke out, the Apaches who had been driven out of Paris robbed and plundered unhindered on the banks of the Seine and the Marne, plenty of proof for which is found in the papers of the Military Governor of Paris.

It would be impossible to call attention to all of the improbabilities contained in the complaints, the great number of which are essentially contributed in order to fill the unprejudiced public with the most palpable untruths; in particular the strained representation of the reputed plundering of the Baye chateau, in regard to which all the evidences presented are merely "reported" assertions. A similar fate overtakes the remaining sensational, evil gossip. In not a single syllable is an example mentioned, and the same may be said concerning the many reports of atrocities committed by billeted German soldiers, and what followed in the way of reprisals.

In regard to the truth of such legends of atrocities by German "barbarians" one can best inform himself by consulting the very readable book which recently appeared in Munich (F. Bruckmann Co.) and guaranteed by an Englishman to be true. Houston Stewart Chamberlain relates: "It reappears, word for word, in the present war, what 44 years ago already happened. Every Frenchman, every Belgian, every Englishman and Russian, who comes in actual contact with the German soldiers, is astonished in discovering not alone their iron discipline, but also what decent, good-hearted men they are; but the belief in the wickedness of the Germans is deep-rooted, and personal experiences are always regarded as the exceptions, which are opposed to the aggregate testimony. Such was also the case in 1870. I can give the ripe judgment of experience, for at that time I had in France—which had been my home in the first years of my life—some very worthy connections, and by the end of 1871 I found myself again in France. It was the same story over again; not a single Frenchman did I encounter but who only bragged, who himself had a strain of ferocity in him or had an overflowing heart, or who told what others had seen; not one. But the citizens of my beloved Versailles assured me: 'That was because the King and the general headquarters were there, and so the soldiers were ashamed to do anything; but if you only knew how these Bavarians behaved in Normandy.'

Now I also had old acquaintances among some peasant families in Normandy; so I made enquiries. 'No,' it was again. 'We had luck. In our neighborhood the army under Manteuffel operated. Splendid, faultless discipline, they would not have dared to steal an egg—but in Alsace, it must have gone on terrible there.' The eastern region I was not acquainted with, but I managed that winter-time to become acquainted with a French Alsatian preacher, a rabid German hater, but no liar. As I put the old question to him he took a sketch book out of his bureau and showed me a picture of a valiant German infantryman who was peeling potatoes in the kitchen of his parsonage; a uhlan who sat on the stone step in front of the door and with tender, delicate care was feeding a baby out of the bottle, and other similar idylls. 'Quelle bonne pate l' hommes!' he said with emotion, 'What good natured people,' but immediately followed the old tune: 'We had luck, for they were Pomeranians that stayed longest in our town; but if you knew how the South Germans carried on in Orleans———.' Such barefaced nonsense, like the one that the German soldiers carry away all the clocks, are not to be eradicated. For years I have been on the trail of Frenchmen who had been relieved in this way of their watches but never have I found one. And yet the canard has gained such a strong hold that in the present war—as the papers are relating—there were orders to the inhabitants to place their clocks out in front of the doors, as a sort of propitiation. I can only say: one sees how true it is that the fantasies of mankind lead all human wisdom astray."

Chamberlain, who is by birth and training an Englishman, must also in this time of the world's affairs admonish people not to be lead astray by Tartar stories which are circulated with malicious and evil intent. Fortunately there are great numbers of neutrals to whom it will be evident that German "Kultur" cannot change its whole character overnight simply because a war has broken out. Certainly in time of war there will be such short-comings with the best of armies, which one would rather not have happen. But that does not excuse by any means the fantasies of the enemies of Germany, who cry to heaven over the commission of a few wicked deeds; who have branded the Germans as Barbarians. At least an impartial judgment of the present proofs which are being revealed on the French side never will be able to present the commission of actually witnessed German atrocities. Such atrocities do not exist, for they are entirely out of keeping with the character of the brave German soldier.

ONE MINUTE CHATS WITH MY NEIGHBORS

Neuve Chappelle—and the Champagne

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"In your conscience you know better than to ask that. The German government has published the name of every soldier lost in the war. The Prussian losses alone have been nearly a million, the total German losses over a million and a half; but Germany has concealed nothing. Therefore I do believe what they say this time and every time. It remains then that the British admit a loss of 12,000, the Germans only 6,000.

"Well, it was a glorious proof of English gallantry and courage."

"If you think so, you differ from a Scotch Canadian I know. He points out that in the first days of the war, the Irish bore the brunt on the 'British' battle line; and the Irish 'got theirs.' Then came the Hindus, in the autumn, fighting on the German right, and the Hindus 'got theirs.' Now, at Neuve Chappelle, the Scotch and Canadians have 'got theirs.' But when only English are left, says my Scotch Canadian, they will not 'get theirs,' for they will not 'be there.' And one thing more. While the English press on both continents has made such a hurrah over the feat of the whole English army capturing one village by sacrificing the Scotch, over in the Champagne, American correspondents tell us that for eighty-five days the French have been hurled to death on a five-mile front without gaining an inch, though twenty-five thousand French bodies lie rotting there, and countless thousands have been wounded and captured. But perhaps your system of newspaper-reading didn't catch that item. It was not, to be sure, so prominently featured."

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Fair Play for Germany and Austria-Hungary

Edited by
GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK
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